

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: June 15, 2005

Division: County Administrator

Bulk Item: Yes X No       

Department: Fire Rescue

Staff Contact Person: Captain Zavalney

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**AGENDA ITEM WORDING:** Approval to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness for a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant, a subset of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program.

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**ITEM BACKGROUND:** The purpose of the SAFER grants is to award grants directly to volunteer, combination, and career fire departments to help them increase their cadre of firefighters. Ultimately, the goal is for SAFER grantees to enhance their ability to attain 24-hour staffing and thus assuring their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

The AFG is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. Through the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2005, Congress provided \$65 million for the SAFER grants. The Hiring of Firefighters Activity involves a five-year grant to assist fire departments to pay a portion of the salaries of newly hired firefighters. These newly hired positions must be in addition to authorized and funded active firefighter positions. Grantees must do everything in their power to maintain the number of authorized and funded positions as declared at the time of application PLUS the awarded new firefighter positions throughout the period of performance (five years). Grantees that fail to maintain this level of staffing risk losing all or a portion of their grant. Volunteer, combination, and non-profit career fire departments are all eligible to apply for assistance in hiring new firefighters. These grants require the awardee to match an increasing proportion of the salary over a four-year period; in the fifth year of the grant, the awardee must absorb the entire cost of any positions awarded as a result of the grant.

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**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:** None. This is the first time this grant program has been available.

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**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:** N/A

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:** Approval

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**TOTAL COST:** \$ TBD at time of award\* **BUDGETED:** Yes        No X

**COST TO COUNTY:** \$ TBD at time of award\* **SOURCE OF FUNDS:**       

\* Specific grant instructions have not been made available as of this writing.

**REVENUE PRODUCING:** Yes        No X **AMOUNT PER MONTH**        **Year**       

**APPROVED BY:** County Atty N/A OMB/Purchasing N/A Risk Management N/A

**DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:**   
Clark O. Martin, Jr.

**DOCUMENTATION:** Included        Not Required       

**DISPOSITION:**        **AGENDA ITEM #**